GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1595
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
POST OFFICES IN RURAL AREAS
Pingle Shri Devidas Anandrao

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in rural areas in the country, State-wise particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of post-offices in rural areas on the basis of population;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the performance of post-offices in rural areas has been affected due to shortage of postmen;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the number of postmen?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The number of Post Offices in rural areas of the country, Circle-wise, including those in Maharashtra, is given in Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): Post Offices are opened on the basis of distance, population and income norms and subject to availability of resources. The norms are given in Annexure-II.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) Delivery of mails in rural areas is primarily undertaken through extra departmental delivery agents. There is no shortage of either extra departmental delivery men or postmen in relation to the workload in rural areas.

Annexure-I

State-wise number of Rural POs as on 31-03-2004

S. No.	Circle		No. of Rural Post Offices
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH		14845
2.	ASSAM		3709
3.	BIHAR		8622
4.	CHHATTISGARH		5397
5.	DELHI		81
6.	GUJARAT		8191
	DAMAN & DIU	15	
	DADAR NAGAR HAVELI	37	
7.	HARYANA		2329
8.	HIMACHAL PRADESH		2658
9.	JAMMU & KASHMIR		1495
10.	JHARKHAND		2772
11.	KARNATAKA		8582
12.	KERALA		4187
	LAKSHDWEEP	10	
	MAHE	0	
13.	MADHYA PRADESH		4995
14.	MAHARASHTRA		11294
	GOA	204	
15.	NORTH EAST		
	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	292	
	MANIPUR	686	

	MEGHALAYA	460	
	MIZORAM	337	
	NAGALAND	299	
	TRIPURA	659	
16.	ORISSA		7572
17.	PUNJAB		3430
	CHANDIGARH	7	
18.	RAJASTHAN		9659
19.	TAMIL NADU		10153
	PONDICHERRY	58	
20.	UTTAR PRADESH		15693
21.	UTTARANCHAL		2496
22.	WEST BENGAL		7639
	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLAND	89	
	SIKKIM	197	

TOTAL: 139149

Annexure-II

NORMS FOR OPENING POST OFFICES:

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village).

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: 500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas; The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices.

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post office should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen`s beats.